

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02403 271755Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR NATO GR

SUBJECT: GREEK GOVT WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO

REF: FBIS MARCH 251600Z

1. IN A JOINT WRITTEN REPLY BY THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TO A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION BY COMMUNIST (KKE-INTERIOR) DEPUTIES DRACOPOULOS AND KIRKOS, THE GOG REITERATED ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO. THE MINISTERIAL RESPONSE, DATED MARCH 15, 1975, APPEARED IN THE PARLIAMENTARY MINUTES OF MARCH 20 AND RECEIVED LOW-KEY PRESS TREATMENT THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE TEXT OF THE GOG STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS (EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION):

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE DECISION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO REMAINS FIRM. THE ARMED FORCES OF THE

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02403 271755Z

COUNTRY HAVE ALREADY BEEN PLACED UNDER

GREEK COMMAND AND DO NOT COME UNDER NATO MILITARY COMMANDERS. THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS THAT RESULT FROM THE ABOVE DECISION REQUIRE EXTENSIVE PREPARATORY WORK AND WILL BECOME SHORTLY THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMPETENT NATO AUTHORITIES. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: THIS RECENT JOINT STATEMENT BY BITSIOS AND AVEROFF REPRESENTS THE LATEST OFFICIAL PUBLIC REITERATION OF THE DECISION TAKEN LAST AUGUST TO WITHDRAW FROM NATO'S MILITARY STRUCTURE. THE GREEK COMMUNIST PRESS, IN COMMENTING ON IT, POINTED OUT THAT WHILE LEFTIST CIRCLES ARE SATISFIED WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S REPLY THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT "PREPARATORY WORK" SHOULD NOT GO ON FOREVER, PARTICULARLY SINCE EIGHT MONTHS HAVE ALREADY PASSED FROM THE TIME THE WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE. KUBISCH

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